

Olympics 2012: London calling

London celebrates the one-year countdown to the 2012 Olympics, with a ceremony at the iconic Trafalgar Square

Hundreds of people have turned out to join in the festivities which included British medal hope Tom Daley, who christened the Olympic diving pool at the recently completed Aquatic Centre. Also on the programme was the unveiling of the medals as well as speeches from British Prime Minister David Cameron, IOC President Jacques Rogge and London's Mayor Boris Johnson. To no great surprise the most animated

speech came from the Mayor of London. "The streets will be ready, won't they? The trains will be ready, the taxis will be ready, the theatres will be ready, the buses will be ready complete with a hop-on and hop-off feature. The hotels will be ready. The Olympic venues are ready, so ready that we might as well call a snap Olympics tomorrow and catch the rest of the world napping. And above all the people of London will be



Chris Keay (C) holds the torch as runners begin a ceremonial torch run

ready."

The Aquatic Centre became the final venue to be completed in the Olympic Park in east London and Mr. Rogge was impressed. "I was surprised by seeing the Aquatic Centre. I entered

it from the upper deck and I had a visual shock. I have seen so many venues in my life but never something like this. This is absolutely fabulous." With concerns over the completion of venues out of the way Mr. Rogge turned his

attention to security, notably the threat of terrorist attacks. "Security has been and still is the number one priority of the IOC since the 1972 Munich massacre, we will never forget that. And I was an athlete at that time, I know the

pain we felt at that time."

Unlike the build-up to Athens Games in 2004 the completion of the majority of the venues should give London organisers a comfortable 12 month run-in to the 30th edition of the Games.



A woman lights a candle to pay her respects to Norway victims

Norway police face review, think killer acted alone

Police are increasingly certain that mass killer Anders Behring Breivik acted alone, but are leaving no stone unturned in the hunt for collaborators as they try to close one of the bloodiest chapters in Norway's history

Breivik, 32, killed eight people in a bomb attack in central Oslo on July 22nd and then shot 68 at an island summer camp for the ruling Labour Party's youth wing. He has told police he was part of a network in his self-styled 'crusade' against Islam and multiculturalism — but Norwegian authorities doubt this.

"So far we have no indication that he has any accomplices or that there are more cells," the Head of the Norwe-

gian Police Security Service, Janne Kristiansen, said, adding that his claim was likely to have been a play for publicity. Ms. Kristiansen said there would be no let-up in hunting Breivik's possible partners, however unlikely, or in police monitoring of extremists. "As long as there is a tiny chance... we have to investigate it — that is our main focus," she said, noting that Breivik was 'too calculated, too focused' to be considered insane. Norway's Parliament has promised a review of the country's security services and their actions during Breivik's attacks. The Government said it would pay the costs of burying the mostly teenaged and twenty-something victims.

Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg urged his coun-

trymen to participate in the open debate and democracy that Breivik had cruelly silenced at the camp. Days after the attacks, Norwegians may be doing just that, with the Labour Party reporting a surge in applications. An opinion poll showed 80 percent believed the Prime Minister had performed 'extremely well' in the crisis. Staring at thousands of flowers outside Oslo Cathedral in the sunshine, physiotherapist Aase Bergheim, 41, said she now saw Stoltenberg, and Norway, differently. "The Prime Minister, I now see him in a new light, because he's shown he can gather the people. People are smiling at each other now. I don't usually vote for him, but maybe in future," she said.

Japan's retail sales rise for first time since quake

Retail sales in Japan rise for the first time since the earthquake and tsunami hit the country in March

According to the latest official data, retail sales rose by 1.1 percent in June from a year earlier, indicating that the economy is beginning to recover. The rise comes after three successive months of falling sales as consumers stayed away from shops in wake of the devastation caused. Compared with the previous month, retail sales rose by 2.9 percent. Analysts

said the data indicated that things were starting to return to normal in Japan.

"You should expect a bounce back to where things were before the earthquake and tsunami struck," said Richard Jerram of Bank of Singapore. The earthquake and tsunami on March 11th caused widespread devastation in Japan. The country's supply chain was disrupted, resulting in some of the biggest factories suspending or curbing production. While that had a significant impact on the Japa-

nese economy, analysts said the rapid pace of recovery had boosted morale. "I think the actual restarting of production has happened faster than people expected," said Mr. Jerram.

Martin Schulz, of Fujitsu Research Institute in Tokyo, added that the return of Japanese factories to near-full capacity had played a key role in getting consumers back to the shops. "Consumer levels had been depressed after the quake, but it is rebounding back. People are overcoming their concerns," he said.

Ford to open new unit in India to boost market share

US car maker Ford is planning to expand its operations in India as it attempts to capture a greater share of the country's car market

The US carmaker says it plans to invest \$1bn in building a new factory in the western state of Gujarat, its second production line in India. The announcement comes as Ford is looking to increase its global sales by 50 percent over the next four years. India is one of the fastest-growing car markets in the world.

"These new state-of-the-art facilities will help us



reach the goal of increasing worldwide sales by nearly 50 percent by mid-decade to about 8m vehicles per year," said Michael Boneham, the President and Managing Director of Ford India. India's rapid economic expansion has seen demand for higher-value items such as cars increase

substantially.

Car sales in the country grew by almost 30 percent in 2010, making it one of the most attractive markets for manufacturers. Recently, Toyota, the world's biggest carmaker, said it planned to invest \$220m to nearly double its production capacity in India by 2013.